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1. Commercial correspondence

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American Colonization Society

AFRICAN COLONIZATION.

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR THOMAS C. UPHAM, D. D.

The following interesting letter is from the Rev. Thomas C. Upham, D. D., for more than forty years Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Bowdoin College, Maine, and the popular author of several standard volumes:

NEW YORK, *April 20, 1870.*

Rev. JOHN ORCUTT, D. D.

DEAR SIR: Deprived by age and physical infirmity of the privilege of taking a part in the more public efforts of the friends of African Colonization, I ask the favor, nevertheless, to express through you my continued interest, and my full and unquestioning faith in this noble and divine cause. My connection with the Colonization Society goes back some forty years; and from the beginning I have never doubted. In the darkest days, when the Society was assailed on every side, and not without some show of reason, my faith, looking beyond human errors to the wisdom of a controlling Providence, has remained unshaken.

Often in my solitary hours, not less than when pleading before God with my fellow-Christians for the restoration of erring humanity, have I seen and heard, in the depths of my spirit, the groans and the tears of suffering Africa. But I did not, and could not, at any period of my life, disconnect the interests of Africa from the interests of the negro race in this country. I did not remember Africa and forget the slave. In common with many others I have felt deeply the great wrong of American slavery; and my efforts, sympathy, and prayers have been with those who have labored for its termination. With me the two things have gone together. I have been unable to separate in my thoughts and in my deepest convictions the connection of the disenthralled and regenerated slave with the liberation of the land from which he came. But this connection, standing clear and firm in the convictions of many reflecting men, has not as yet found time to be fully realized. The slave is free, but Africa is not redeemed. The slave stands forth an American citizen, with the light of civilization and of Christianity, as well as of freedom thrown around him; but the hundred and fifty millions of Africa are still almost universally in the bondage of ignorance, cruelty, and barbarous superstition. The means which were applicable to the restoration of other heathen lands and nations,—the grand missionary work which has been carried on by the white race in other parts of the world,—has been found in a great degree inapplicable here. So much so that many noble hearts have trembled before the difficulties of the problem, and have felt that human wisdom was not adequate to its solution.

But at this point of perplexity and darkness God unveils more clearly to our view the great plans which, amid clouds and shadows, amid wrongs and sufferings, required the elaboration of centuries. A new power has arisen; a nation has been born in a day; and the heart and the eye of Africa are turned towards her own children; and, with extended arms, and with more than the old Macedonian cry, she exclaims: "Come over and help us."

Some have supposed that this loud cry will be unheeded; that the possession of new rights, or rather of old rights newly acknowledged, will so intoxicate and benumb the hearts of our colored brethren that they will not listen. I cannot believe it. I do not so understand the qualities of the negro race. The attributes which constitute their character are not justly estimated. When they shall have received, year after year, the instructions of colleges, we shall be able to pronounce more decisively upon the powers of their intellect. But intellectual traits alone do not constitute the whole of humanity. The colored race manifest a docility, a patience, a depth of feeling, a quickness of sympathy, a facility of religious belief, an appreciation of the kind, the good, and the joyous in life, which mark them as a people who have a higher work to do than to sit down in idleness.

It is very true that they will not go, and ought not to go, contrary to their own convictions. But on this point I have no anxiety. The great God, who has watched over them from the beginning, who has marked their tears and heard their supplications, and in His own time has broken the chains of their bondage, will soon reveal to them the heights of their destiny, and will crown with a new glory the degradation which He has redeemed. It will not satisfy the African heart that the negro is recognized as a man, that he is an American citizen, that he has the right of suffrage, that he has a seat in the Senate; but with all the rights of an American, and educated in the best institutions of the country, he will find the God who has saved him opening his interior vision to behold the glory of being a co-worker in proclaiming the truths of freedom and justice, of civilization and Christianity throughout the length and breadth of Africa. Do not doubt it. Let the long-agitated question of the comparative mental position of the African race cease. A century hence, and perhaps much sooner, with the advantage of freedom and of equal education, the question will be settled on the philosophical basis of ascertained facts, and will be settled forever.

It is enough for us to know, in the light of the revelations which have become a part of history, that God is with the negro; and to know that the negro, no longer debased or restrained by slavery, will follow God's leading, whether his mission be here or elsewhere. Undoubtedly multitudes will stay here; America will be their home; both for their benefit and for our own. But other multitudes, touched with a higher inspiration and moulded to higher issues, will, within the course perhaps of a single century, reveal the African desert blossoming as the rose; and civilization and Christianity flourishing under the protection of a system of republics, constituting under their own flag the United States of Africa.

In this great work, which constitutes a part of God's remedial system for the restoration of the world, colonization can now nobly lead. The way is now open for more energetic and widely-extended action, without the fears and doubts, and the liabilities to error, which have perplexed the past. And

it cannot be doubted, that many influential men, who have hitherto stood aloof, are now ready for co-operation.

The day in which we live is remarkable for great and comprehensive plans. And these plans, so far as they originate in the great source of all good, are not likely to fail. Let me say, therefore, that the hour has come. The men, the only class of men who are adequately fitted for the task, are ready. Let there be no want of means. Combine unity of purpose with unity of action; and let purpose and action go hand in hand with prayer and faith, which constitute the great elements of success.

With sentiments of most respectful and sincere regard,

I remain, yours,

THOMAS C. UPHAM.

TWO NEW SETTLEMENTS IN LIBERIA.

Mr. Henry W. Dennis, Agent of the American Colonization Society in Liberia, thus reports the formation of two settlements in that Republic; the emigrants and means for which were embarked on the Society's Ship Golconda, from Norfolk, Va., November 11, 1869:

MONROVIA, *March 3, 1870.*

MY DEAR SIR: My last letter to you was dated January 7, via England, in which I apprized you of the arrival of the Golconda with her company of emigrants, and I informed you that it was my purpose to go up the St. Paul's river on the 11th, in company with the leading men of the Arthington and Brewer companies, to visit the sites selected for their location. We did so. We went as far as Millsburg in boats: here we had to land in consequence of the obstructions in the river, and walked thence to Muhlenburg, which I should judge to be about two miles above Millsburg. After taking a few minutes' rest and in looking around at Muhlenburg, we proceeded about a mile higher up on the banks of the river. From Millsburg up to the distance we travelled, and as far as we could see, the river is obstructed with solid masses of stone, and it is impossible for boats to pass. There are narrow streams running between the rocks that will admit the passage of small canoes, and these have to be managed by expert, experienced, active canoemen to pass in safety. I learn from the people at Millsburg that these obstructions in the river extend about six miles up from Millsburg. In our dry season the rocks are mostly uncovered.

After looking around at the surrounding country, the advantages and disadvantages to locate in that neighborhood were discussed among those present, and all of them decided that they could not settle there. We returned to Millsburg that evening about six o'clock, where we passed the night. The next day several of the other places on the river were visited by the men on their way down, and we reached Monrovia about twilight. After our return, the site for their location was again discussed. Some wanted to go up in the neighborhood of Muhlenburg, some proposed Caldwell, some Clay-Ashland, some Virginia, and some White Plains. But after a few days further deliberation, the Arthington company, headed by Mr. Alonzo Hoggard, decided to take their lands in the neighborhood of Muhlenburg, but not on the river, as the river could be of no service to them, and the lands near its

banks not being, in their opinion, as good as the lands farther back. The Brewer company decided to locate in the rear of Virginia, and would not consent to locate near the other company. Lands for both companies have been surveyed for them, and for several weeks they have been busily engaged in clearing off their lots and in getting out lumber for their houses. I am assisting them to do this by paying persons to help them. Since they have commenced operations I have not been able to get up to their place to see their progress, but I learn from them and others that they are driving ahead finely. They go up from here on Mondays and return on Fridays or Saturdays of each week. I provide boats for the travelling to and fro, and have furnished them with the necessary tools for their work. Mr. Hoggard tells me that he will be ready in two weeks' time to take his family up, and soon the others will also be ready to have their families moved up. I am anxious to have the most of them on their own places by the middle of May, before our heavy weather sets in. With the exception of one or two of the males, who appear to have but little idea of farming, having grown up probably in some town or city, they seem cheerful and pleased with their prospects, and manifest no discontent.

Yours, very truly,

H. W. DENNIS.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF LIBERIA.

The following gratifying intelligence is taken from a letter dated Monrovia, March 7:

"I beg to mention here that our Government proposes to increase the number and improve the character of her public schools. To effect this, a law has been passed creating a Commissioner of Education for each county, and defining the duties of the same. Rev. G. W. Gibson has been appointed as such for Montserado county, and it is believed will do all in his power to carry out the objects contemplated in the law. He hopes, it is said, to open a school in April next in every settlement in his district. Books suitable for common schools are greatly needed."

OPENING COMMUNICATIONS.

In writing on the subject of opening a road from Sierra Leone to the Niger river, Governor Kennedy says:

"It is a matter of great commercial importance to this settlement to have the road open to the Niger, in the Sangara country, and Mr. Reade has nearly accomplished this, having reached as far as Falaba; and, if he gets no farther, I have made arrangements with the son of a chief who will guaranty the safety of any one I may send next dry season. I myself came to this Coast in the first mail (a commercial) steamer (the Fore-runner) which ever came to West Africa, and there are now four first-class steamers per month running out and home full of cargo. I see no limit to the development of trade on this Coast, *if we can extend our influence and maintain peace in the interior.*"



